IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method for protecting content within protected data areas on a target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium against unauthorized reading and/or copying with a computer, ~~characterized by the steps of~~ comprising:

determining whether an optical data medium inserted into a drive of the computer is [[a]] the target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium or a non-target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium ~~is inserted into a drive of the computer~~, and

[[if]] when the inserted optical data medium is [[a]] the target optical data medium, ~~carrier is inserted into the drive of the computer~~

modifying read requests to the protected data areas so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or

modifying write commands in respect to the data within the protected data areas to a recordable data ~~carrier~~ medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the modifying of read requests and/or of write commands is performed only if no authentication is available.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the determining and modifying steps are performed by routines implemented into a drive control layer within the computer.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the routines replace a dispatch routine and a completion routine, and have the functionality to perform the determining and modifying steps and to call the replaced dispatch and completion routines for their execution based on the original or modified read requests and/or write commands.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the routines are implemented by a driver that is installed by an executable that is automatically started when a target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium is inserted into the drive.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the driver is automatically loaded after each start of the computer, and/or does not comprise an unload routine, and/or changes its name randomly, and/or comprises filetimes that are set randomly, and/or comprises code that is changed randomly, and/or is installed multiple times, but is only one time active, and/or can be installed by installation programs spread all over the computer's system.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the driver comprises a communication interface to allow an exchange of control data and/or authentication data.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium is distinguished from a non target optical data ~~carrier~~ medium by evaluating a predetermined session of [[the]] a optical data ~~carrier~~ medium in respect to special modifications, and/or at least one of the tables of contents of the

optical data ~~carrier~~ medium in respect to special entries, and/or a predetermined session of the optical data ~~carrier~~ medium in respect to special subcode modifications, and/or predetermined data stored on the optical data ~~carrier~~ medium in respect to a watermark.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a protected data area is identified on basis of a sector type, and/or a range of sectors, and/or sectors that are subject of specific read sequences.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a protected data area is defined by at least one predetermined area, and/or data stored on the optical data ~~carrier~~ medium itself.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~Method~~ A method according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the modifying of read requests so that the read data is modified to be useless, and/or the modifying of write commands so that the written data is modified to be useless comprises aborting a corresponding IO Request and/or IO Command with an error, and/or completing the corresponding IO Request and/or IO Command, but without processing the actual request and/or command, and/or modifying the respective data so that it is modified to be useless.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended). ~~Computer readable storage means, comprising a computer program product according to claim 12.~~ A computer readable storage medium

including computer executable instructions, which when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method comprising:

determining whether an optical medium inserted into a drive of the computer is a target optical data medium or a non-target optical data medium, and

when the inserted optical data medium is the target optical data medium,

modifying read requests to protected data areas of the target optical data medium so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or

modifying write commands in respect to the data within the protected data areas to a recordable data medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~Optical~~ An optical data ~~carrier~~ storage medium including protected areas and ~~, characterized by an~~ computer executable ~~program~~ instructions, ~~that is automatically started when the optical data carrier is inserted into the drive and that performs the method~~ ~~steps as defined in claim 1 when executed on a computer, digital signal processor, or the like,~~ wherein when the optical data storage medium is inserted into a drive of a computer, the computer executable instructions cause the computer to identify the optical data storage medium as a target optical data medium and to perform a method comprising:

modifying read requests to protected data areas of the target optical data medium so that either no data is read or the read data is modified to be useless, and/or

modifying write commands in respect to the data within the protected data areas to a recordable data medium or other storage so that the written data is modified to be useless.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): ~~Optical~~ An optical data ~~carrier~~ storage medium according to claim 14, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the computer executable ~~program is~~

instructions are arranged in a data session of a multi-session CD that also comprises an audio session.